

Message Text

SECRET

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73

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 CU-02 /077 W

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R 181710Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7815

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T LONDON 18604

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, LE, UK

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH FCO ON LEBANON

REFERENCE: LONDON 18534; BEIRUT 8447 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED LEBANESE SITUATION WITH BRITISH AM-BASSADOR WAKEFIELD AND FCO LEBANON DESK OFFICER NOVEMBER 18. WAKEFIELD LEAVES EARLY MORNING OF NOVEMBER 21 AND HOPES TO SEE LANE BEFORE LATTER DEPARTS ON LEAVE. DURING DISCUSSION OF CONTACTS WITH CHRISTIANS, BRITISH SAID SEVERAL OF THEIR OFFICERS HAVE CROSSED TO THE CHRISTIAN SIDE RECENTLY AND HAD RECEIVED USUAL COMPLAINTS THAT BRITISH AND AMERICANS HAD NOT SUPPORTED THEM ADEQUATELY, BUT MOST SHARPLY EXPRESSED MARONITE DISILLUSIONMENT WAS WITH FRENCH. WAKEFIELD, THINKING OUT LOUD AND OBVIOUSLY TALKING UNOFFICIALLY, WONDERED IF WESTERN EMBASSIES COULD NOW GET AWAY WITH ESTABLISHING A TRADE OFFICE IN THE CHRISTIAN-HELD SECTOR. BRITISH BELIEVE AMONG MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEMS COMING UP WILL BE COLLECTION OF HEAVY WEAPONS OF MILITIAS, FOLLOWED BY RESTORATION OF PUBLIC SECURITY AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT.

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2. EMBOFF SAID HE HAD HEARD FROM EGYPTIAN EMBASSY SOURCE HERE THAT LEBANESE AMBASSADOR TO UK DIMECHKIE IS A "DARK HORSE" TO SUCCEED KARAME AS PRIME MINISTER. FCO HAS HEARD SAME RUMORS BUT HAS NO CONFIRMATION. WAKEFIELD NOTED THAT DIMECHKIE HAD REMAINED IN LONDON, KEEPING HIMSELF CAREFULLY NEUTRAL BUT CONTINUING TO EXPRESS STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE.

3. WAKEFIELD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN AMOUNT OF FUNDS USG HAS APPROPRIATED FOR AID TO LEBANON, AND ALSO ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHAT USG ASSISTANCE TO AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT AND AU HOSPITAL WE PLAN. HE DOUBTED WHETHER BRITISH HAD ANY FUNDS LEFT TO ALLOCATE TO LEBANON SINCE DISASTER FUNDS USED AND BRITISH CRITERIA FOR AID SPECIFY IT MUST BE CONCENTRATED ON POOREST AGRICULTURAL COUNTRIES.

ARMSTRONG

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